



CADET NOTES

Maxwell Air Force Base, AL



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My First Glider Experience

by C/Amn Chelsea Holder

Glider flights were scheduled to take place on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004. It was the first time I had ever had the opportunity to do something like that. I was so excited! On the drive out to the glider squadron at Shelby County, getting airborne was all I could think about—well, that and the incredibly lame things the other cadets were talking about in the van.

Anyway, we got there about 10:00 and were ready to be briefed at 10:15. The instructor gave us a few safety tips and then he told us the jobs that needed to be done. The jobs included wing runners and signal relayers. The wing runner basically holds the wing and runs with the glider down the runway. The signal relayers make sure the runway is clear and gives the signal



Getting ready to soar the beautiful blue sky are Cadet Walker and Lt. Col. Johnny Ward. Their aircraft is the Super Blanik glider.

to the tow plane pilot. These are important jobs that each cadet got the chance to perform.

After that, the instructor asked who wanted to be the first to go flying and everyone raised their hands. So the instructor said, “alright, we’ll go shortest to tallest.” And—you guessed it—I was first. I guess being short has its benefits sometimes!

They got me buckled in and before I knew it, we were riding down the runway. The takeoff was really noisy because of the wind breezing by and because the plane towing us was loud. Not only that, the runway was very bumpy. But when we got in the air and were released by the tow plane, I was shocked at how quiet and smooth

the flight became. It was awesome! We had to move around and find where the air currents were strongest. I stayed up in the air for about thirty minutes and then, to my dismay, we were ready for landing. Little did I know, landing would be my favorite part. I loved the drop; it felt like my stomach was in my chest!

The instructor told me about a game they play—you have to try and land the nose of the glider closest to the line of the cones to be the winner—and we won!

After that, I got out and watched the other cadets and helped with some of the other jobs. If you haven’t gone glider flying yet, go soon! I promise you will love it as much as I did!

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Commander's Corner

from the desk of . . .
Lt. Col. Gaston

March 2005

Greetings to all our cadets, senior members, parents, and other readers. This has been a very sad month, what with the tragic death of Pennsylvania CAP Cadet Rebecca Marseglia. We've spent parts of two meetings discussing this event, but one thing I want to reemphasize is our responsibility to each other. On our FTXs and other events, we continually stress the buddy system. Everyone knows that's a simple concept where you don't go anywhere without your buddy. There is safety in numbers. We can "what if" Cadet Marseglia's death to any extent, but I would hazard the guess that if someone had buddied up with her, things would not have ended as tragically as they did. We all have a responsibility to look out for each other, and to respect each other. I urge each of you to take this to heart, and take a little extra time to look out for each other.

On a happier note, I will be retiring from active duty on 18 March at 3:00 PM. It has been a wonderful 28 years, but now it is time to let the younger generation take over. I am honored that our color guard will present the colors at this event, one that most of my family and my wife's family will attend. The ceremony is in Husband Auditorium in the Squadron Officer School complex and you all are invited. I would love to see as many of you there as possible, as long as it doesn't interfere with your school! Barbara and I plan to remain in Prattville so I'll spend the next few months looking for permanent employment. Gotta decide what I want to do when I grow up!

I will keep this short, so for now, keep studying hard, both in school and in CAP. Look out for yourselves AND each other. Last, many thanks to all of you for all you do for our organization, our Air Force, and our country.

Sincerely,
Lt. Col. Gaston
Lt. Col. Gaston

Squadron Leadership School

Maxwell Composite Squadron hosted a Squadron Leadership School (SLS) over the President's Day weekend at Maxwell AFB, AL. This school is key to a Senior Member's learning about the Civil Air Patrol and how the wing and squadron accomplish the organization's three missions of Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services. The school is also a key component of completing Level II of the Senior Member Training Program. Upon completion of Level II and some time-in-grade requirements, a Senior Member is promoted to captain and is ready to assume a broader leadership role within the squadron.

Fifteen Senior Members from across central and northern Alabama came together to form the student body. The two days of in-depth briefing were highlighted by briefings from officers of HQ CAP and HQ CAP-USAF. From HQ CAP, Lt. Col. John Salvador, Director of Operations, briefed the students on CAP's National Mission and CAP's growing role of Homeland Defense under the USAF's 1st Air Force. First Air Force is the USAF's air component of US Northern Command charged with Homeland Defense. CAP has been integrated into the non-combat role and many new high-tech methods of incorporating the patrol were discussed. Next, USAF Lt. Col. Randy Mathis, Operations Officer of HQ CAP-USAF, detailed the organizational interaction between the CAP



The following senior members from the Alabama Wing participated in the Feb. 19 & 20 SLS course held at Maxwell Air Force Base: Front row from left: Gary Ernest, Christopher Rousseau, Raymond Pettitt, Tanya Hallmark, Lou Enriquez Middle: Matthew Moncus, Terry Jackson, Oliver Cork, Michelle Becker, Deborah Enriquez Back: Bob Stewart, Silvano Wueschner, Samuel Brown, Jim Corey, Randall Epstein

corporation and the CAP-USAF liaison structure. He explained that CAP-USAF is charged with oversight of the corporation to ensure CAP can meet their USAF assigned missions and new role in 1st Air Force.

Several of Maxwell's Senior Members attended and a few of them even instructed during the school, thus fulfilling a critical component of their Level IV requirements. But most importantly, a good time was had by all. Keep your eyes open for the next major CAP school, the Corporate Learning Course (CLC) being conducted in northern Alabama.

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Going for the Gold!



With the weather fit for neither man or beast, our very own, C/SrA. Tony Cihak, took to the pavement and went for the gold.

Tony ran in the Air War College "Fit to Fight" 5K and placed 1st in his age group. His time: 25 minutes, 20 seconds.

Congratulations!

*Colonel David Zelenok
Director of Staff, 50th Space Wing*

*cordially invites you to attend
a Retirement Ceremony honoring*

*Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Gaston, Jr.
Chief of Instruction
International Officer School*

*Friday, the eighteenth of March
Two thousand five
at three o'clock in the afternoon
Husband Auditorium, Squadron Officer School
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama*

*Military: Uniform of the Day
Civilian: Business Attire*

Reception to follow in Foyer

Glider Flights at Shelby



From left to right: Lt. Col Becker, Cadets Wueschner, Stevens and Cihak, Lt. Col. Johnny Ward, and Cadets Pinkham, Hodgkins and Ennis.

Alabama Wing Glider Operations are conducted at the Flying-X airport located about 5 miles on a heading of 250° from the Shelby County airport (EET). The Flying-X has a 3,000-foot grass runway. The Birmingham Soaring Society operates out of the Flying-X.

Cadets are authorized five glider orientation flights at no charge as part of their training. Senior Members may fly in the CAP L-23 two-place glider assigned to the Alabama Wing. The cost for Senior members includes a \$25 tow fee plus \$10 per hour of flying time.

To arrange orientation flights for Cadets or flights for Senior Members, call Lt. Col. Johnny Ward at (h) 205-941-1691, (cell) 205-910-5856, (w) 205-328-7233, or email: wardj@nsc.org.

Senior Member Spotlight



Name:
Major Colin Miller
Nickname/
Call sign:
"Magoo"
Hometown:
Falls Church, VA

Family:

Wife, Jacquie; daughters, Katie (5) and Grace (3)

Hobbies:

running, computers and flying

Why did you join CAP?

Because I wanted the opportunity to share some exciting experiences I've had developing and flying airplanes, pass on some aerospace knowledge, and hopefully inspire some cadets to pursue their dreams

What do you do?

Test pilot for the U. S. Air Force.

Why did you join the Air Force?

To serve my country doing something I love: flying jets!

Where are you headed next?

What will you be doing there?

I'll be working on the next generation Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps fighter—the F-35—as a program manager.

Why would you recommend CAP to a young person?

It's a great opportunity to meet great people, learn about leadership and flying, and get some air underneath you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 18th Lt. Col. Gaston's Retirement Ceremony
Husband Auditorium, MAFB
- 26th Powered Flight Orientation

April

- 1st-3rd FTX (also on the 15th-17th)
- 30th Dannelly Tower/Fire Tour/Powered Flight Orientation

May

- TBD Glider Flight Orientation (TBD=to be determined)

Monday Night Meetings

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| 1st Mon. | Emergency Services & Testing | (BDU) |
| 2nd Mon. | Physical Training | (PT gear) |
| 3rd Mon. | Aerospace Education & Testing | (Blues) |
| 4th Mon. | Moral Leadership | (Blues) |
| 5th Mon. | Commander's Discretion | (BDU) |

**Coming June '05
Summer Encampment**